IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 17 (Cancelled)

18.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

collecting real time material information from a production line;

analyzing the real time material information to determine a material cost;

collecting real time operator information from the production line;

analyzing the real time operator information to determine an operator cost;

collecting real time equipment information from the production line;

analyzing the real time equipment information to determine an equipment cost;

collecting real time indirect cost information from the production line;

analyzing the real time indirect cost information to determine an indirect cost;

determining an actual production cost as a function of the material cost, the operator cost, the equipment cost and the indirect cost; and

generating cost comparison data as a function of the actual production cost and a scheduled production cost;

wherein the real time equipment information includes equipment failure data, and further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the equipment failure data to a maintenance post;

determining a response time for maintenance personnel to respond to the equipment failure data as a function of the transmitted equipment failure data and a repair time entered by the maintenance personnel in response to the equipment failure data.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

determining an actual operation efficiency as a function of the actual production cost and the real time equipment cost; and

generating efficiency comparison data as a function of the actual operation efficiency and a scheduled efficiency.

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20.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the analyzing of the real time material information step includes a comparison of the real time material information with stored material information.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the analyzing of the real time operator information step includes a comparison of the real time operator information with stored operator information.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the analyzing of the real time equipment information step includes a comparison of the real time equipment information with stored equipment information.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the combining step includes a comparison of the real time information with stored part information.

Claims 24 - 33 (Cancelled)

34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:
       analyzing the real time equipment information and the real time operator information as a
function of time; and
       generating a real time operator efficiency of an operator.

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the real time operator efficiency is generated for at least two operators in a production unit.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the real time operator efficiency is generated for at least two operators in a service unit.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein generating the real time

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operator efficiency step includes a comparison of the real time operator information with stored operator information to determine a deviation of the operator cost from a scheduled operator.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein determining the actual operation efficiency step includes an analysis of the material cost, the operator cost, and the equipment cost.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein determining the actual operation efficiency step further includes an analysis of an energy cost.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the material cost is a function of the operator cost and the equipment cost.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the operator cost is a function of the material cost and the equipment cost.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the equipment cost is a function of the material cost and the operator cost.

43.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:
       collecting real time operator information;
       collecting real time equipment information;
       analyzing the operator information and the equipment information as a function of time; and
       generating a productivity report based on the time analyzed operator information and equipment information,
       wherein the real time equipment information includes equipment failure data, and further comprising the steps of:

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transmitting the equipment failure data to a maintenance post;

determining a response time for maintenance personnel to respond to the equipment

failure data as a function of the transmitted equipment failure data and a repair time entered by

the maintenance personnel in response to the equipment failure data..

44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the function of time is based on
one of a production unit and a service unit.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the production unit is a
manufactured item.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the service unit is a completed
service task.

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